

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, SF

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING EXCERPTS

REF: CAPE TOWN 1149

1. UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S DAILY PRESS BRIEFING ARE BEING CABLED TO AF POSTS. CAPE TOWN APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVING DAILY EXCERPTS SINCE DEPARTMENT STOPPED USING COLLECTIVE ADDRESS "ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS" AND STARTED USING INDIVIDUAL ADDRESSES, INCLUDING PRETORIA BUT INADVERTENTLY NOT INCLUDING CAPE TOWN. OMISSION HAS NOW BEEN CORRECTED. REGRET THAT THIS OCCURRED.

2. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED COMMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN JUNE 6 ON PIK BOTHA'S JUNE 5
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PARLIAMENTARY SPEECH:

BEGIN QUOTE: Q: ACCORDING TO A DISPATCH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AS MONITORED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER, SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY, NOTED THAT VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE HAD LAST YEAR ADVOCATED

ONE MAN ONE RULE FOR SOUTH AFRICA, BUT THE FOREIGN

MINISTER SAID THAT SINCE THEN EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO MOVE AWAY FROM WHAT MR. BOTHA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, TERMED THIS EXTREMIST STATEMENT. AND THEN QUOTING FROM THIS OFFICIAL DISPATCH, BOTHA SAID, ;WE WELCOME THESE EFFORTS, BUT WE ARE STILL AWAITING A CLEAR EXPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT SEEKING A SOLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA ON BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN ONE CONSTITUTIONAL ENTITY."

MY QUESTION IS, WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THIS QUESTION WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS RAISING?

A. WHAT IT IS HAS BEEN FOR A YEAR AND FIVE MONTHS. IT MIGHT BOTHER MR. BOTHA TO BE CALLED "BOTHA." HE KNOWS VERY WELL WHAT IT IS, AND THAT IS TWO-FOLD. FIRST, THAT THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT DISCRIMINATION AS A FORM THAT SOUTH AFRICANS REFER TO AS PETTY APARTHEID SHOULD BE ABOLISHED QUICKLY. ALONG THE SAME LINES THAT PIK BOTHA IN A SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS TWO YEARS AGO PROMISED QUICKLY.

SECOND, THAT A MOVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TOWARD FULL PARTICIPATION BY ALL THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH AFRICA IN THE POLITI- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAL PROCESS OF THAT COUNTRY. THE FORM OF THAT PARTICIPATION, THE FORM OF THAT GOVERNMENT, THE FORM OF THE RELATIONSHIP IS NOT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO DICTATE.

WE HAVE SAID THAT CONSISTENTLY NOW FOR 17 MONTHS, WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER KNOWS AS WELL AS ANYBODY IN THIS COUNTRY, AND THAT HASN'T CHANGED. END QUOTE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST PARA 4 REFTTEL, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF Q AND A PREPARED ON CONNIE MULDER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRANSFER OF POWERS TO SOWETO COUNCIL. SO FAR TEXT HAS NOT BEEN USED BY SPOKESMAN.

BEGIN QUOTE: Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF VIRTUALLY A FULL TRANSFER OF CIVIC POWERS AND DUTIES FROM THE WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD TO THE BLACK SOWETO COMMUNITY COUNCIL?

A: WHILE ANY COMMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE PRELIMINARY, THE MOVE APPEARS TO BE AN ENCOURAGING ONE AS IT GOES MUCH OF THE WAY TOWARD MEETING THE DEMANDS OF SIGNIFI-

CANT BLACK LEADERS, INCLUDING THE SOWETO COMMITTEE OF
10. IT IS ESPECIALLY WELCOME NEWS IN THIS WEEK PRIOR

TO THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNE 16, 1976 SOWETO
DEMONSTRATIONS. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT
MAKES NO REFERENCE TO TAX POWERS FOR THE SOWETO COUNCIL,
A PROVISION WHOSE ABSENCE WILL CLEARLY LIMIT THE AUTHORITY
OF THE NEW COUNCIL. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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